

District of Columbia State Data Center Quarterly Report

Spring 2007

District of Columbia Population Trends

Introduction

In its 68.5 square miles, the District of Columbia (later referred to as the 'District') is comprised of a diverse population. The District's population trend depicted in this report reflects historical changes from 1950 through 2006. The total population declined continuously from 1950 through 2000, but began an upward trend since 2000 paralleling a robust economy with unprecedented commercial and residential construction. The senior population (65 years and over) generally rose in number and percent of the total population from 1950 through 2006. From 1970 through 2006 the youth population (ages 0-15 years) generally followed a declining trend in number and percent. The racial composition of the total District population also changed significantly. In 1950, the population was 64.6 percent white and 35 percent black. By 2006, the District's population reversed itself racially, with 56.5 percent black and 38.4 percent white. In terms of ethnicity, the earliest data record-

ed showed that Hispanics comprised 2% of the District's population in 1970, and increased to 8.2 percent in 2006.

Population Trends

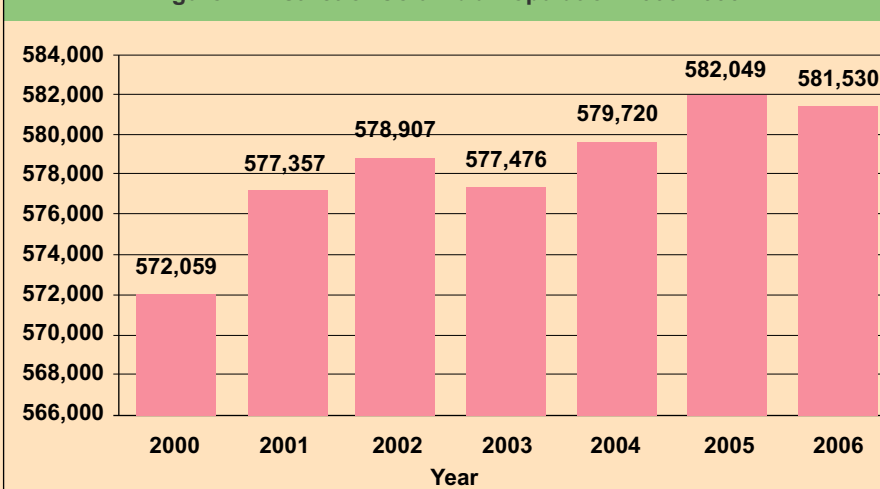
Population Size

In 1950, the District reached its peak population of 802,178. However, the District's population had declined to 572,059 by the year 2000, a 29% decrease over 5 decades. Since census 2000 the District's population has been growing in general from 577,357 in 2001 to 581,530 in 2006, a 1.7 percent increase (Figure 1). Although household size has been decreasing from 2000 to 2006 (2.16 to 2.0 persons per household, respectively), mainly due to out-migration of families with children, the continued robust economy with high skilled jobs has attracted many new couples and singles to the District. Figure 2 shows the decrease in the size of the average household since 1970. In 1970, the average household

POPULATION TRENDS cont. on page 2

by
Joy Phillips
Robert Beasley

Figure 1. District of Columbia Population 2000-2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



POPULATION TRENDS from page 1

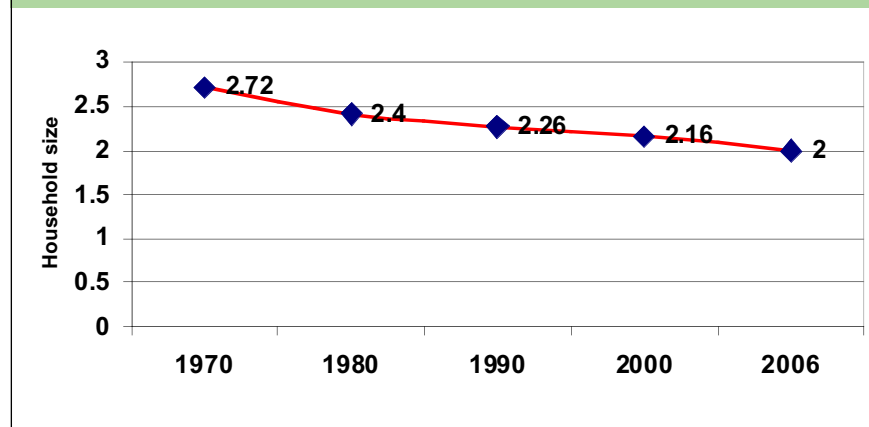
contained 2.72 residents. In 2000, the average household contained 2.16 residents, and in 2006 this declined to 2.0 persons per household (Office of Planning estimate).

Census Bureau's data also illustrate the District's changing role within the rapidly expanding Washington region. In 1950, the District had 46 percent of the Washington Metropolitan area population. In 2000, the District's share of the Washington Metropolitan area population had decreased to 12 percent. The population estimate for 2006 showed a continued decline in the District's share of the region's population (11 percent).

Racial/Ethnic Composition

The District's racial composition has been changing over the past six decades. The black population numbered 280,803 in 1950, increased to 537,712 in 1970, decreased to 349,390 in 2000, and 328,566 in 2006 (Table 1). The white population, on the other hand, peaked in 1950 at 517,865, declined to 172,000 in 1980, increased to 197,168 in 2000, and to 223,033 in 2006. The other racial group that can be directly compared from 1950 to 2006 is the American Indian and Alaska Native population that grew from 330 in 1950 to 2,161 in 2006. In terms of ethnicity, the earliest recorded data for the Hispanic population showed an increase from 15,600 in 1970 to 44,953 in 2000, and 47,774 in 2006. As a percentage of the District's population, Hispanics increased from 2 percent in 1970 to 7.9 percent in 2000, and 8.2 percent in 2006. Figure 3 depicts what the District was like racially from 1950 through 2006. In 1950, the District's population was 64.6 percent white, 35.0 percent black, and 0.4 percent other races. In census 2000, the District's population was 31 percent white, 60 percent black, and 9 percent other races. Estimates for 2006 showed the white population increasing to 38.4 percent, the black population decreasing to 56.5 percent, and other races at 5.1 percent. Other races consist of American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and people belonging to two or more races.

Figure 2. District of Columbia Average Household Size 1970-2006



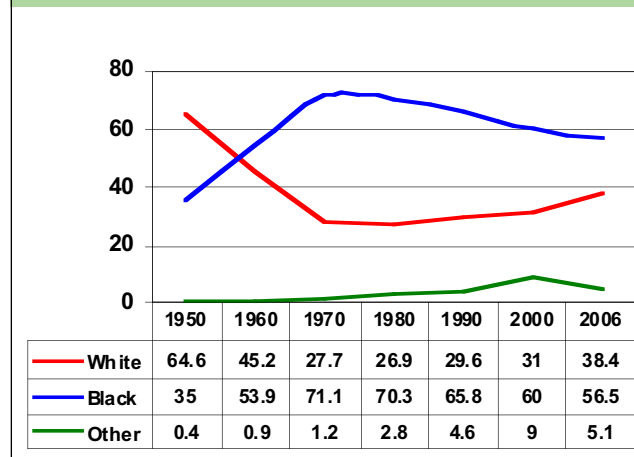
Source: District of Columbia, Office of Planning, State Data Center

Table 1 District of Columbia Population by Race: 1950-2006

Race	1950	1970	1980	2000	2006
Total	802,178	756,510	638,333	572,059	581,530
White	517,865	209,272	171,768	197,168	223,033
Black	280,803	537,712	448,906	349,390	328,566
Other	3,510	9,526	17,659	25,501	29,931

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 3. District of Columbia Racial Composition 1950-2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

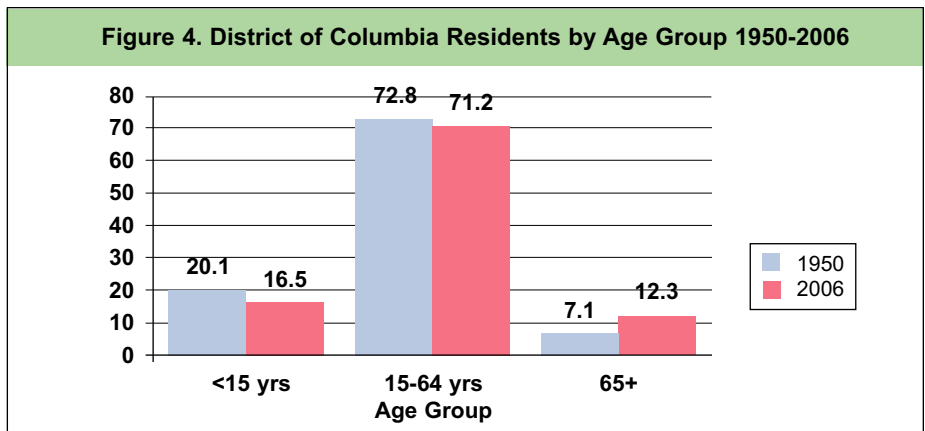
Age

The past several decennial census years have documented changes in the age make up of District residents. The single biggest change has been the number of households with children decreasing significantly between 1950 and 2006 (Figure 4). In 1950, there were 160,860 District

residents under age 15, comprising 20 percent of the population. In Census 2000, there were 97,939 children under age 15, comprising 17 percent of the population. The 2006 population estimate showed 95,668 children under 15 years old, representing 16.5 percent of the total District population. The number of children under 15 years of age declined 40.5 percent since 1950.

The number and percent of seniors showed a different trend. In 1950, there were 56,687 (7 percent) District residents 65 years and over. Both the number and percent of seniors peaked in 1990 at 77,847 and 12.8 percent, respectively. However, in 2000 the population 65 years and over showed a decline in both number and percent - 69,898 and 12.2 percent, **AGE** cont. on page 3

respectively. This population group increased slightly in the last six years to 71,331 (12.3 percent). The senior population represents a larger share of the population today than 50 years ago. Figure 4 shows the percent change in population by age groups between 1950 and 2000. Like the nation, the District has been aging. Moreover, according to earlier census projections, the number and percent of residents over 65 years are projected to increase by 2025 as the "baby boom" generation matures.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The following two tables present more detailed data of the District's population by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin from 2000 to 2006.

Table 2: Annual Estimates of the Population by Age and Sex for District of Columbia: 2000 to 2006							
Sex and Age	Population Estimates						
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Both Sexes	581,530	582,049	579,720	577,476	578,907	577,357	572,059
Under 5 yrs	34,948	35,291	34,690	33,694	33,493	32,979	32,536
5 to 9 yrs	29,385	29,552	30,408	31,925	33,261	34,487	35,385
10 to 14 yrs	31,335	32,693	33,948	33,827	33,081	31,921	30,018
5 to 19 yrs	39,304	38,610	37,552	37,078	37,215	37,246	37,867
20 to 24 yrs	51,491	50,217	51,390	50,473	50,502	51,962	51,823
25 to 29 yrs	55,825	55,492	52,954	52,549	52,879	52,065	52,849
30 to 34 yrs	48,055	48,685	49,960	50,314	50,609	50,257	48,913
35 to 39 yrs	44,139	43,804	43,153	44,063	45,153	45,946	45,949
40 to 44 yrs	40,770	41,694	41,916	41,832	42,027	42,209	41,728
45 to 49 yrs	38,531	38,670	38,799	39,006	39,416	39,226	39,397
50 to 54 yrs	36,286	37,307	37,380	37,379	37,666	38,040	35,913
55 to 59 yrs	34,623	33,441	32,090	31,048	30,056	28,437	27,803
60 to 64 yrs	25,507	25,342	24,876	24,053	23,476	22,590	21,980
65 to 69 yrs	19,986	19,651	19,223	18,878	18,641	18,543	18,525
70 to 74 yrs	15,979	16,037	16,111	16,396	16,550	17,002	17,394
75 to 79 yrs	13,619	13,988	14,163	14,321	14,754	14,865	14,976
80 to 84 yrs	10,977	11,139	11,180	10,961	10,631	10,370	10,028
85 yrs and over	10,770	10,436	9,927	9,679	9,497	9,212	8,975
Under 18 yrs	114,881	116,098	116,631	116,430	116,797	116,223	114,992
Under 5 yrs	34,948	35,291	34,690	33,694	33,493	32,979	32,536
5 to 13 yrs	54,188	55,569	57,440	59,600	60,551	60,647	59,930
14 to 17 yrs	25,745	25,238	24,501	23,136	22,753	22,597	22,526
18 to 64 yrs	395,318	394,700	392,485	390,811	392,037	391,142	387,169
18 to 24 yrs	71,582	70,265	71,357	70,567	70,755	72,372	72,637
25 to 44 yrs	188,789	189,675	187,983	188,758	190,668	190,477	189,439
45 to 64 yrs	134,947	134,760	133,145	131,486	130,614	128,293	125,093
65 yrs and over	71,331	71,251	70,604	70,235	70,073	69,992	69,898
16 yrs and over	479,396	477,714	474,594	472,327	473,340	472,514	468,575
18 yrs and over	466,649	465,951	463,089	461,046	462,110	461,134	457,067
15 to 44 yrs	279,584	278,502	276,925	276,309	278,385	279,685	279,129
Male	272,664	273,000	271,999	270,915	272,223	271,694	269,366
Female	308,866	309,049	307,721	306,561	306,684	305,663	302,693
Median age	35.0	35.0	34.9	34.9	34.8	34.7	34.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION TABLES cont. on page 4

Table 3: Annual Estimates of the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for District of Columbia: 2000 to 2006							
Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin	Population Estimates						
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Both Sexes	581,530	582,049	579,720	577,476	578,907	577,357	572,059
One race	573,142	573,783	571,673	569,631	571,198	569,778	564,693
White	223,033	219,034	213,912	208,830	207,068	203,974	197,168
Black	328,566	333,930	337,454	340,997	344,596	346,858	349,390
AIAN	2,161	2,141	2,108	2,096	2,114	2,041	1,961
Asian	18,871	18,183	17,718	17,246	16,965	16,467	15,762
NHPI	511	495	481	462	455	438	412
Two or more races	8,388	8,266	8,047	7,845	7,709	7,579	7,366
Not Hispanic Origin	533,756	533,708	531,181	529,331	531,333	530,272	527,106
One race	526,482	526,525	524,187	522,486	524,609	523,695	520,732
White	184,255	179,617	174,145	169,237	168,108	165,828	161,260
Black	321,922	327,313	330,945	334,633	338,147	340,105	342,464
AIAN	1,467	1,443	1,409	1,399	1,425	1,354	1,317
Asian	18,470	17,796	17,344	16,889	16,607	16,099	15,402
NHPI	368	356	344	328	322	309	289
Two or more races	7,274	7,183	6,994	6,845	6,724	6,577	6,374
Hispanic Origin	47,774	48,341	48,539	48,145	47,574	47,085	44,953
One race	46,660	47,258	47,486	47,145	46,589	46,083	43,961
White	38,778	39,417	39,767	39,593	38,960	38,146	35,908
Black	6,644	6,617	6,509	6,364	6,449	6,753	6,926
AIAN	694	698	699	697	689	687	644
Asian	401	387	374	357	358	368	360
NHPI	143	139	137	134	133	129	123
Two or more races	1,114	1,083	1,053	1,000	985	1,002	992

Abbreviations: AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native; NHPI = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

For additional information contact:
D.C. Office of Planning
State Data Center
801 North Capitol Street, NE
Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 442 7600
(202) 442-7638 FAX
www.planning.dc.gov



Government of the District of Columbia